

CHAPTER III.

THE MACILDUYS—THE MACNEISHES OF ATHOL—THE MACNEISES
OR MACILDUYS OF RANNOCH—DONALD NEISSON OF DRUNGIE
—THE NEISHES OF LOWER STRATHEARN—WALTER NEISH OF
WESTER DUBHILL—DONALD NEISH OF PERTH—DUNCAN NEISH
OF EDINBURGH.

THE various accounts of the Loch Earn Neishes inform us that the only male survivor of the Clan Neish was a boy who eventually settled in Strathallan, and his descendants became known as MacIlduys. So probably the small group of MacIldowie families living at the present time in the south of Perthshire are descendants of the lad. Therefore, the Neishes of the present day would obviously be sprung from the various Neissons and Neishes who were settled in Menteith, Angus, and Lower Strathearn, at least from the

year 1467, apparently unconnected at the period with the Clan Neish of Upper Strathearn.

In the article on the MacNabs in Anderson's 'Scottish Nation,' the Neishes or MacIlduys are described as a tribe which possessed the upper parts of Strathearn. It appears, then, that the Clan Neish were also known as MacIlduys at an early period. MacIlduy or Macgille-duibh was probably the cognomen of one of the early chiefs of the Neish clan.

The Neishes were said to have been connected with the MacGregors, and some later writers have placed them as a sept of Clan Gregor. It appears, however, that some of the Clan Neish were settled in Athol before the year 1494. John Dow MacNeische was a witness to a Grantully sasine in that year.

From 1552 to 1618 there are many records of a MacNeis-MacIlduy clan or sept of Rannoch, who appear as allies and followers of the Clan Gregor.

It is suggestive that the MacNeis or MacIlduy sept of Rannoch was an early offshoot of

the Neishes of Athol and Loch Earn, and that they were not connected by blood with the Clan Gregor.

The surname MacNeish appears to have been often erroneously anglicised as MacInnes, as some of the following records of the Athol and Rannoch branches indicate :—

1494. Johanne Dow M'Neische was a witness to a sasine (No. 28), in favour of Elizabeth Stewart, of the lands of Garnetully (Grandtullie), dated 12th January 1494 (9).

1521. Death of Donald McNacht, Vicar of Fortingall, 9th June 1521 (49).

The above-mentioned vicar was no doubt one of the MacNeishes of Athol, possibly a son of John Dow MacNeish who appears on record in 1494.

1525. "Death of John More M'Ane Vik Condoquhy, alias Maknecht, at Ewchirvlairis on the 17th day of month of August 1525; and he was buried at Inchaden before the

step of the choir, on the south side of the church, on the 18th day" (49).

No doubt this John Mor MacIan MacDuncan MacNecht, who died at Uachdar Bhlairis (now Upper Blairish, near Dull), was the son of John Dow MacNeish who was a witness to the Grantully sasine in 1494.

John Mor (Big John) MacNecht or MacNeish, who was probably the chief of the northern sept of the Neishes, lived *circa* 1470-1530.

John Dow MacNeish, the father of John Mor, lived *circa* 1440-1500.

Condoquhy (Gaelic Donnchadh) or Duncan MacNecht, the grandfather of John Mor, lived *circa* 1400-1470.

Inchaden is an old ecclesiastical site on the north side of Loch Tay, where many local magnates, including the MacGregor Lairds of Balloch, the Robertsons, Barons of Carwhin, were interred within the walls of the church.

Inchadney church and graveyard was obtained by the Earl of Breadalbane in 1762, and the ancient church was eventually destroyed (20).

1533. Duncan Maknothac was a witness to a Stewart of Grandtully sasine (No. 42), dated 9th May 1533 (9). Duncan was possibly a son of John Mor (son of John, son of Duncan), who died in 1525.

1552. The following Bond of Manrent appears in the 'Black Book of Taymouth':—

Duncan M'Aindew in — (Rannoch),
Duncane and Malcum, his sons, renounce
the laird M'Gregour and his heirs their
chief and chose Colyne Campbell of Glen-
urquhay and his heirs to be their perpetual
chiefs. Dated before witnesses Alexander
Menzeis of Rannocht, John Leyche, William
M'Olcallum M'Gregour, John M'Yndoir,
Malcolm M'Nachtane, Thos. Orknay, and
Patrick M'Carbre, 21 December 1552.

The above sept appears to be the MacInduy-MacNeis family of Rannoch.

1589. Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor followers.

1590. Extract from the "Lardner expences, household books," in the 'Black Book of Taymouth':—

"off woddiris fra Makniche in Calleloquhane, the said yeir in Ballach."

Callelochan, or Killalochane (1480), was a part of the lands of Eddergoll, at the east end of Loch Tay, near Inchaden Church. MacNiche or MacNecht was apparently one of the MacNeishes of Athol.

1599. James and Finlay McEan Vic Innes, the Laird of Garntully's men (21). They were probably descendants of the MacNeish who was a witness to the Garntully sasine in 1494.

1600. John MacEanduy, in Rannoch. Pledges were entered by Murray of Tullibardine for a number of MacGregor followers, including the said John.

1602. Patrick MacIndowy, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor retainers.

1610. Duncan McEan Vic Eanduy, in

Rannoch, a captive MacGregor. Many of the followers of the Clan Gregor were not of the MacGregor race. The Fletchers or Macanleisters, and others, were often included on the lists of outlaw MacGregors.

1613. John MacInnes Vic Eanduy, in Lessintullie (Lassintullich, near Kinloch - Rannoch), was fined for resetting (replenishing and assisting) some MacGregors (21).

1618. Gibbon McAllester Vic Innes, in Aulich (Loch Rannoch), was prosecuted by the Privy Council for carrying arms (21).

Gibbon was probably the son of Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, 1589.

1618. Donald MacIndoue, in Camferich, and John Oig MacFrankeine (MacRankin), servitor to the Clandaindouey (Clann an duibh, or MacIllduys), in Downane, were prosecuted for carrying arms (21).

1664. John M'Caniss, in Ballechragan, assign to John Campbell of Glenurchay, younger, five head of kye ('Black Book of Taymouth').

It is very probable that the present-day MacAnish, MacAinish, and MacAinsh families of Perthshire are descended from the old MacCanish sept of Athol, and also that they were not of MacInnes or MacAngus origin, but really a branch of the MacNish stock in Athol.

1681. John Roy McNish, saw-master, was charged with riot and malicious damage on the saw-mills and salmon-fishing on the water of the Lyon and the lands of Dalreach, which belonged to Robert Campble of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

Complaint by Campbell of Glenlyon against John Roy McNish and others for wrongously cutting down fir trees in the woods of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

John Roy was probably a descendant of Makniche, in Calleloquhane, who supplied wood to the Campbells of Breadalbane at Taymouth Castle in 1590.

1688. The testament of Christane M'Ansh, in Logierait, was dated 1688.

1689. The testament of Christian M'Canish (probably sister of the above), spouse to Donald Reid, in Dunfallandie, Athol, was dated 28th February 1689 (22).

From the year 1467 many notices of the Neishes of Menteith and Lower Strathearn occur in the written records of the country.

1467. Donald Neissoune, keeper of the Royal Forest of Menteith, was granted sasine of half of the lands of Drumgie, and the office of forester of Menteith by King James III. (23, vol. 7).

“Et de ls de relevio dimedietatis terrarum de Drumgilany et officii forestarie silve comitis de Menteth, regi debito per saisinam datum Donaldo Neysoune de eodem anno regni regis nono. Summa hujus oneris, £19, 16s. 10d.” (23).

Neisson is just an anglicised form of MacNeish.

Donald left his portion of the lands of Drumgy to his daughters, Jonet MacNes and Mariot MacNeis.

1495. Jonet MacNeish, or Neisson, received a sasine of the lands of Drumgy.

“Sa. Jonete Maknes t. (tenant), Drumgy, Menteith” (23).

1496. Mariote Macneis, tenant, received a sasine of Drumgy, Menteith (23).

1500. Jonet MacNeish sells her portion of the lands of Drumgy.

“A Precept of Confirmation to Johne Dormondson of Blarequoich be Jonet Neis, —of xxv s worth of land of ald extent of the landis of Drimgalany, with the pertinentis, liand in the stewartry of Menteth : Salfond to the King’s henes richtis and service aucht and wont before the confirmation, &c., Per Signetum.” Dated 29th January 1500 (17).

The King confirmed the charter of Jonete Nete of Drungie to John Dormond of Drumgy at Stirling Castle, 20th June 1500 (17).

This is the last we hear of the Neissons or Neishes in Menteith.

The lands of Drumgy are first mentioned in 1426, when John de Spensa, burgess of Perth, was granted a charter of the lands of Drumgy and Torrie, in Menteith, by James I. (17). In 1456 Henry Pitcarne received sasine of half of the barony of Drongie (23). In 1467 Dormond Johnstone received sasine of half of Drumgilany. In 1480 Dormund (Diarmid) Dormonstoun received sasine of Drongylany. In 1481 Henry Pitcarne obtained sasine of half of the barony of Drongy.

The son of John Dormondson of Blarequoich and Drumgalany was described as Dormund M'Fersane, alias Johnstoun, in 1509, when he received a charter of the lands of Duchra-Ester, alias Blairbaith, Strauthneawane, Gertnamuck, Drumtone, and Straanduchra, in Menteith (17).

John Dormondy was described as of Drungie, in 1552 (25).

In 1557 James Stirling received confirmation of a charter of the lands of Drongy-Neische (17). John Dormond received a charter of Dronze in 1559, and again in 1583 (17).

The lands of Drongy - Nes and Drongy-

Dormunt, in Menteith, belonged to the Grahams of Craigoctie in 1596 (17).

The place-name Drumgie has disappeared from the maps; the lands were in the neighbourhood of Loch Drunkie, which lies 2 miles north of Aberfoyle.

1480. Brice Neish was a tenant of the King in the lands of Easter and Wester Dalgarus (now Dalginross, near Comrie) in 1480.

In the same year we find Mariot Neisch or Neissoun, widow of Brice, entered as tenant of the lands of Easter Dalgarus and Drummenerenoch (23).

In the Rental of the Lordship of Strathearn, set at Perth on the 24th February 1480 (23), we find that Drummenerenoch was set to Master Alexander Inglis, dean of Dunkeld; he was bound not to move the tenants, among whom was Mariota, relict of Neisch.

At the same time Easter Dalgarus was set to Brice Neisch for the terms prescribed, the sum of 40s. as grassum, &c.

Donald, son of Brice Neissoun, obtained his mother's part of Easter Dalgarus about 1482 (23).

In 1486 Estir Dalgarus was again set to Brice Neisch, for the terms "ut supra," for 40s. money as grassum, with carriages and services usual (23). Apparently this Brice was a son of Brice and Mariot.

The following is an extract from the "Notarial Instrument or Bond by Lord Drummond and Sir William Murray of Tullibardine," submission anent feud between Murrays and Drummonds (18):—

"And if the wife and bairns of umquhile Brise Neson will come and remain at the Tack of the Ester Dalgarous that it be restored to them, they paying the gersum (grassum) of the terms to run, as is above written; and as for the rest that they remain still with their tacks that they are now in." Dated 16th May 1492.

The Neishs were apparently involved in the

feuds of the Murrays and Drummonds at this period.

In 1501 Donald's part of Easter Dalgarus was let to John Murray of Strowan (23).

The Murrays were not slow in obtaining crown charters of the lands they procured. In 1510 John Murray of Strowan received a charter of the lands of Strowan (16 mercatas), Wester Dalgarrous (8 libras), Ester Dalgarrous (4 libras), and Ester Glentraf (Glentarf), in dominio de Stratherne (17).

Drummenerenoch, or Drummondernoch, near Comrie, was afterwards granted to one of the Drummond family.

The present farmhouse of Drummond Ernoch was built in 1702. The old house of this name was the residence of John Drummond, who was slain in the deer forest of Glenartney in 1589 by a band of MacGregors. According to the usual accounts, John Drummond, who had fled to Ireland in 1511, through the benevolence of a Murray was enabled to return from his exile. On account of this

Drummond having been in Ireland, the property obtained the name of Drummonddernoch, or the Drummond of Ireland. The lands, however, bore the name of Drummenerenoch in 1480, when the lands were held by the Neish family.

Drummondernoch is in Gaelic "Druiminn Eireannach," and no doubt means "Drummond of Strathearn," to distinguish it from other places called Drummond. Strathearn is in Gaelic "Srath Eireann," "Ireland's Srath" (1).

In 1491 an action was brought by John, Lord Drummond, against John of Murray, son to umquhile David Murray of Tullibardine, for spoliation of lands, including those of MacNeth (MacNeish), a tenant of Lord Drummond, dated 24th February (26).

"Invading and distrubling of his fuads and taki fra maknethis wiff his subtenant a mer pce fiftjs." (and taking from MacNeth's wife, his sub-tenant, a mare, price 50s.).

Apparently the above tenant was Mariot, the widow of Brice Neish. Neish and Neis-

son was the Lowland or anglicised form of the name, and no doubt the family were known as MacNeishes or MacNeths by the inhabitants of Strathearn, who at that time spoke Gaelic.

In 1489 Mariot Neissoun received a confirmation of a charter of the lands of Drumchork, near Comrie, from King James IV. (17):—

“Rex confirmavit cartam Mariote Neissoun de Drumcork,—(qua, cum consensu sponsi sui Joh. Dowsoun, pro certa summa pecunie persoluta, vendidit et alienavit Malcomo Drummond, filio et heridi quondam Jac. Drummond, civis Dunblanensis, heridibus ejus et assignatis,—terras de Drumcork, in dominio de Strathearn, vic. Perth:—Reddend. annuatim rigi unum denarium argenti nomine albe firme:—Test. Ewmundo Chesholm burgensi de Edinburgh, D. Jac. Belches subdecano Dunblanensi, Joh. Kilgour, Joh. Smert notario publico, Tho. Row, Tho, Cumnok capela-

nis, Joh. Lauder, et Pat. Dowsoun:—Apud civitatem Dunblanensum, 20 Jan. 1498.”

Carta No. 2474. Apud Striveling, 20 Jan.

1505. In 1505 a family of Neishes were in possession of the lands of Wester Glentarf, Duntarf, Glassory (now Glascorry), and Leonach (now Lennoch), all about 2 miles S.E. of Comrie, 1½ miles north of Craigneich, and only 7 miles S.E. of Neish Island.

In 1495 “grassum was allowed to William Neyssone, Strathearn” (23).

In 1505 he is mentioned as the late William Neleson (Neisson), and Murrok his spouse, and Donald Neleson his son, in connection with the lands of Westirglentarf, Duntarf, Glassory, and Leonach (“Ren. Dom. Regis,” Strathearne, ‘Exchequer Rolls,’ vol. 12).

Apparently William Neisson had two sons, Donald and Morice.

1509. The lands of Wester Glentarf were held of the Crown by a family of Neishes during the first half of the sixteenth century.

The following is an extract from the “*Rentalia Domina Regis*,” in the ‘*Exchequer Rolls*,’ vol. 13:—

“Westir Glentarf feued to Morice Nesoun, and Murrok his mother.”

“Westir Glentarf, v £ , vi s, viii d: nunc de consensu Willelmi Maxtoun qui habiut eandem assedatur in feodifirma in feodo Moricio Nesoun et Murrok sue matri in vitali redditu, inde solvendo annuatim viii £ , cum parte martarum, et pro introitu nove infeodationis viii £ .” Dated 4th Feb. 1509.

Again, in 1522, Maurice Nesone and Murrok, his mother, appear as tenants of Wester Glentarf, in *Strathearn* (23, vol. 15).

“In scaccario anno etc xxii, v Aprilis. Wester Glentarf, v £ vis viii d. Quas prius habuit in assedatione Mauricius Nesone in feodo et Murrok ejus mater in vitali redditu nunc de consensu dicti Mauricii assedatur in feodifirma David

Murray filio Johannis Murray de Strowane. solvendo inde annuatim, viii £, cum parte martarum et pro introitu dicte David, iv £, solutas rotulatori.”

1529. “Item to David Naiche for his fe, that past with the cannone to the Ilis” (45).

This David Neiche probably belonged to the Angus or Perthshire branches.

WALTER NEISH of WESTER DUBHILL.

Walter Neish of Wester Dubhill, in the barony of Cairdney, in Strathearn, was born about the year 1538, and he died about 1608. He was Chamberlain of Strathearn from 1577 to 1588; Master of the Royal Larder, 1579 to 1588; Chamberlain of the Comptroller of the Mails in 1588; he was also a witness to many charters from 1579 to 1588; and from 1593 to 1602 he appears as a bailie and land-owner in Stirling.

1572. The account of William Norwel, customer (customs officer), of Striveling, was ren-

dered by Walter Neische in name of the same; dated at Leith, 8th July 1572, from 14th October 1570 (23).

1572. Walter Neiche was a witness to a charter in favour of Mungo Murray, son of William Murray of Tullibardin, of the lands of Kildeys in the Earldom of Stratherne; dated at Tullibardin, 23rd May 1572 (17).

1573. The account of Andrew Murray of Dowall, chamberlain (of Strathearn), was rendered by Walter Neische in name of the same, from the 14th October 1571; dated at Edinburgh, 9th October 1573 (23).

1574. Walter Neische was a witness to a charter by William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, to Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Drumdewan, &c., in the parish of Methven, Perthshire; dated at Tullibardin, 25th October 1574 (17).

1575. The account of David Murray of Kers, chamberlain, was rendered by Walter

Neishe, from 5th November 1574, of Strathearn; dated at Edinburgh, 15th October 1575 (23).

1577. Walter Neis was a witness to the confirmation of a charter by Alexander Toscheoch of Monyvaird to William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, and Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Monyvaird, &c.; dated at Tullibardin, 26th August, confirmed 5th of December 1577 (17).

1578. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by him at Edinburgh on the 20th January 1578, for the period from the 1st November 1577 to 1st November 1578 (23).

1579. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by himself at Edinburgh on the 8th January 1579, for the period from 1st November 1578 to 1st November 1579 (23).

In the account of Sir William Murray of

Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on the 14th March 1579, there is a payment of £15 to Walter Neische, Master of the Royal Larder, for his fee at the term of Pentecost (23).

In the same account reference is made to 390 pairs of rabbits delivered to the late George Danskin and Walter Nische, Masters of the Royal Larder, for the provision of the King's house and family (23).—In the reign of King James VI.

1580. In the account of William Murray of Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on the 7th January 1580, there is a payment of £30 to Walter Neis, Master of the King's Larder, for his term's fee.

In the same account, reference is made to 326 capones of the Lordship of Strivelingshire delivered to Thomas Vandygatis (Windygates) and Valters Nische, pultriemen and lardiner to the provision of the Royal Household (23).

1582. The account of Walter Nische, chamberlain of Strathern, was rendered at

Edinburgh on the 13th August 1582; also on the 17th July 1583 (23).

1584. Account of the bailies of the Burgh of Striveling rendered by Walter Nesche, 6th August 1574, at Edinburgh (E. R. xxi. 239).

Account of Walter Nische, chamberlain of Stratherne, rendered at Edinburgh, 6th August 1584 (E. R. xxi. 244), and at Stirling, 17th August 1585 (xxi. 263).

January 8th. — Caution by Mungo Russell, burgess of Edinburgh, for Robert Sinclair in Auchnahoppill, alias Peill, for payment to David, Earl Craufurd, Robert Graham of Thornik, factor for John, Earl of Montrose, treasurer, or to Walter Neische, chamberlain of the maills, &c., of the said lands for the term of Whitsunday last, in terms of the finding of the Lords' Auditors; horning upon six days' charge obligation of relief by Robert Sinclair and John Wylie, writers (E. R. xxi. 607).

June 26th.—In Royal Letters of Remission granted to the bailies, councillors, community,

and all inhabitants, as well burgesses as others, of the burgh of Stirling, for art and part in the taking and withholding of the Castle and Burgh of Stirling in the month of April 1584, Walter Neische among others is excepted (17).

July 1st. — Walter Neische is witness to charter in favour of John Duncanson, minister of the Word of God, and Janet Watson, his wife, of the lands and town of Coull, Fifeshire. At Falkland, 8th November 1583 (17).

1586. The account of the bailies of Striveling was rendered by Walter Neische at Edinburgh, 14th July 1586; and 20th July 1587; and 9th July 1588 (23).

1586. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, was rendered at Edinburgh, 15th July 1586; and on the 9th July 1588 (23).

1588. *Household servants' feis.*

To Walter Neische, Master of the Lardiner, in the year 100 merks. 1588.

Exoneration of Caponis.

To Walter Neische, Master in the King's grace lardiner, to the furnishing and sustentation of the King's Grace hous within the tym of this compt as his acquittans beris 400 caponis of Fyiff.

To Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, for his ordiner fie of the said terms. £20.

To Walter Neische, Maister of his Majesties lardines, for his pensioun grantit to him of the term of Witsunday within the tyme of this compt. Extending yeirlie to £50. Summa—£25 (23).

1593. Walter Neische of Wester Dubhill, burgess of Stirling, was a witness to a Bond of Caution by Robert Forrester of Bowquhone for James Gib of Carriber, not to harm Henry Levingstoun of Greneyairdis. At Stirling, 16th March 1593-94 (21).

1602. Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis was a witness to a Bond of Caution by Hary

Murray of the Corshill of Cambusbarron for John Murray of Calsayend, not to harm William Bruce of the Myletoun of Gorthie, or Patrik Bruce his son. At Stirling, 14th September 1602 (21).

1608. The testament of Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis, burgess of Stirling, was registered on the 15th March 1608 (Comm. R. of Stirling).

Extract from the records of Burgh of Stirling :—

“The aires of Walter Neische for two aikeris of land . . . £1 . . . in Auld Mure. Do. . . do . . . three acres of land in New Mure. £1, 1s. od.

1626. Commission for apprehension and trial of George and Donald Stewart in Ballachastell, for stealing six cows with calves from the lands of Wester Dubbett pertaining to Elizabeth Alexander, relict of Walter Neische our Maister Laidner (21).

1628. “The lands of the late Walter Neische,

bounded by the lands of Souttertoun, in the barony of Cairny, Perthshire" (17).

1645. Agnes Neish, spouse to Mr Johne Lothiane, sometime minister at Dundonald, in Ireland, after at Munkland, in Scotland, and now (1656) in Ireland, wt in the parochine of Munkland the time of her deceis, deceissit June 1645. In the inventory of her effects it is stated: "Item, the defunct and her husband had the time foirsaid, adebted to pm be Mr Walter Neish, son lawful to umquhile Walter Neish of Dubheads, her brother, the soume of llc xxxiii li," &c. (42).

1623. James Neische was served heir to his sister Jean Neische in the lands of Threttie-Aikeris; dated 30th July (50).

These lands were probably the "three acres of land in New Mure" belonging to the heirs of Walter Neische in 1608.

1637. On the 13th December Magister Walterus Neische, scriba signeti regii, heir of Walter Neische of Waster Dubheads, was

served heir to his father in the lands of Wester Dubheads in the barony of Cairdneye. E. 40s. No. 473 (50).

1591. Christian Sibbald, spouse to Walter Neische of Wester Dubheids, died on the 10th May 1591. Her testament and inventory mention debts due by John, Earl of Montrose, and Andro Wod of Largo. Her goods and gear were left to her daughters, Margaret and Agnes Neische (41).

1598. Agnes Neische, daughter of Walter Neish, and sometime spouse to James Schort, merchant burgess of Stirling, died on the 28th March 1598.

1638. William Blair of Williamstoun obtained a charter of the lands of Wester Dubheid in the barony of Cairdne, which were sometime held of the Monastery of Inschefray, and resigned by Mr Walter Neisch of Dubheads, Writer to the Signet (17).

1559. John Neish was a witness to a Memorandum, dated at Edinburgh, 6th June 1559 (Gilbert Grote's Protocol).

1595. A payment of a fee of £10 (per annum) was made to Duncan Neish in the King's larder (23).

1599. Janet Neish, spouse to Duncan Makinvallich, alias M'Gregor, of the parish of Comrie; her testament is dated 12th June 1599 (51). The MacInvallichs, a MacGregor sept, have anglicised their name Malloch.

The above Duncan was probably the Duncan Maceanvallich in Comrie, who, with Donald, his brother in Comrie, the MacInvallichs of Ardewnaig, appears on the list of MacGregors proscribed after the death of Drummondernoch, dated 4th February 1590.

Donald Neish, a public notary or writer in Perth, who was born *circa* 1570, was a witness to charters, &c., 1602-1615, and an official of William Murray, Earl of Tullibardine.

1602. Charter by Sir John Murray of Tullibardine to Thomas Dundie, burgess of Perth, of the 8th part of the lands of Fermtoun of Gask, Perthshire. At Perth, 4th December 1602, the precept is directed to Donald Neish, writer in Perth (17).

1606. June 25th. — Donald Neische, notary in Perth, is writer of a Bond of Caution by William Spalding at the Mill of Kethik for Alexander Spalding of Bletoun, &c., not to harm Thomas McEwne, alias McIntosche.

July 18th.—Donald Neische was a witness to a similar Bond by Sir David Herring of Glasclune and Sir Robert Crichtoun of Clunie; dated at Perth 12th July (21).

Donald Neische, servitor to William Robertson, notary public burgess of Perth, is witness to a charter by Sir John Crichtoun of Innernytie, in favour of Sir Robert Crichtoun of Clunie, of the lands of Innernytie, Perthshire. At Perth and Kynclevin, 29th and 31st August 1606.

Donald was also a witness to charter by Sir Robert Crichtoun of Innernytie of the lands of Airliewicht, &c., Perthshire. At Perth, 29th August 1606.

1612. May 21st.—Complaint by John, Earl of Tullibardine, and William, Master of Tullibardine, that Sir Robert Creichtoun of Cluny remains unrelaxed from the horn, for not relieving them at the hands of James Dalzell, merchant in Edinburgh, of payment of 2000 merks. Pursuers appear by Donald Neische; defender not compearing is to be apprehended (21).

DONALD NEISH.

1612. Donald Neish, servitor to John, Earl of Tullibardine, was a witness to charter by said Earl to William Mar, servitor to the King, of lands of Blairingone, alias Pitvar, &c., Perthshire. At Edinburgh and Gask, 13th and 14th June 1612 (17).

1613. Donald was a witness to a charter by

John, Earl of Tullibardine, to Patrick, Earl of Kinghorne, of the South and West Mains of Tullibardin, &c., at Canongate and Edinburgh, 23rd June 1613.

Donald was also a witness to the charter by William, Earl of Tullibardine, to Andrew Fute in Glenscherope, of lands of Glenquhoy, Perthshire. At Tullibardin, 5th July 1613.

1615. August 23rd. — Complaint by Donald Neische, servitor to William, Earl of Tullibardin, that Thomas Ferguson of Ballizocan, as principal, Alexander Robertson of Inchinagranoch and others, cautioners, remain unrelaxed from the horning, for not paying to the pursuer 500 merks, &c. Pursuer compearing and defenders not compearing, they are to be apprehended by the Captain of the Guard (21).

DUNCAN NEISH.

Duncan Neish, a Bailie and Councillor of Edinburgh, and one of the Strathearn family, was born *circa* 1550, and died in Edinburgh in 1620.

1606. The Minute-Book of Processes gives the following—"Rebellion: Duncan Neish against Douglas of Reidhous (Haddingtonshire)."

1607. 12th August.—Patrik Hairt and Duncan Nesche, burgesses of the Connogait, having on — instant pursued one another with weapons there during the sitting of Parliament and "maid a verie grite commotioun," there is Commissioun to Robert, Lord of Roxburgh, who has the charge of———, Bellindane of Brochtoun, Lord of the Regality of Brochtoun now in his minority to try the matter, and to punish the offenders by wairding or fining (21).

1609. 26th October.—Duncan Neische, bailie of the Cannogait, receives charge to answer in a complaint by John Sutherland and a Fleming against the bailies of the Cannongait for molesting pursuers in the exercise of their craft.

1611. 1st May.—John Drummond in Kirk-toun of Auchterardour as principal, and Duncan Neishe, burgess of the Cannogait as cautioners for him, £500 not to harm David and Robert

Grahams, sons of the late John Graham of Callender.

1612. 4th June.—Complaint by Bellenden of Bruchtoun, &c., against the Bailie and Councillors of the Canongate (among whom is Duncan Neische), for refusing to recognise a duly appointed Constable for the burgh (21).

Instruments of Sasines by Hendry Wardlaw of Balmule, &c., to John Moresoun, junior; given by Duncan Neische, burges of the Canongate, as bailie; dated 6th August 1612 (30).

1612. 24th November.—Complaint by certain Traders in the burgh of Canongate against the election of Magistrates and council thereof, in which Duncan Neische is continued on the Council (21).

8th August.—The King grants to James Cunnyngame, son of James, Earl of Glencairn, of the lands and barony of Stevinstoun and Kerilaw in the bailliary of Cuningham, which were apprired on 11th February 1612, Duncan

Neische in Canongate being on the Assize (17).

1613. On the 8th July 1624 the King confirmed charter by the Bailies and Council of the Canongate, of whom Duncan Neish is one, in favour of William Chalmer, clerk to the Register of the Treasurer, of a great mansion near the gate of the Monastery of the Holy Cross. At Canongate, 4th February 1613 (17).

1620. July 20th.—Duncan Neische, bailie of the Canongate, is charged to present William Lowrie, cordiner burghess of the Canongate, complainer George Cuninghame, bailie there, for malicious treatment and wrongous imprisonment (21).

July 27th.—Complaint by the King's Advocate against a number of Maltmen for overcharge on their malt; among whom is Duncan Neische, who is fined £25 (21).

The Testament and Inventory of the goods, &c., pertaining to umquhile Duncan Neische, burghess of the Canongate, the time of his deceis

who died 30th November 1620. Given up by himself on the 23rd said month and year. Inventory consists of vitual and domestic furnishings valued at £275, 12s. Total debts to Duncan, £644, 13s. 4d.

By his Latter Will the said Duncan Nasche constitutes Isobell Cunyngham, his spouse, his only executrix, and leaves to Margaret Flemyng, dochter to the said John Flemyng, for his goodwill towards her, ane mask of malt price £8, and the rest of his third to James, John, and Alexander Neischis, his lawful sons, equally among them, except 100 merks which he leaves to David Neische, his eldest lawful son, to supplie him at Lambes next for his lauriatione at the College. (Written by George Norrell, notary.) At Cannogait, 23rd November 1620. Confirmed 8th February 1621; Allester Montgumrie, stabular burgess of Edinburgh, is cautioner.

1618. James Neische, servitor to Sir William Murray of Abercairny, was a witness to the

charter by his said master to Patrick Smetoun, in Leyth, of an annual rent out of Abercairny, Perthshire.

At Holyrudhous, 28th March 1618 (17).

1623. Ewne (Ewen) Neish, in Tullichetill (an old parish near Comrie), 10th May; testament made (51).

The last fight with the MacNabs took place on Neish Island in 1612, so Ewen could not have belonged to the Loch Earn branch of the family.

1629. John MacNeith, in Fadell (Feddall), parish of Muthill (51).

1636. John Neisch, son to the late James Neish in Comrie, was entered as an apprentice to George Admistoun, baxter of Edinburgh, 15th June.

John, son to Robert M'Neish, parish of Muthill, entered with John Phillen, merchant, 24th August (52).

1646. Edward Neasoun, litster, burgess of the Canongate; testament dated 20th June (41).

Some of the Neesons are probably descended from the above Edward.

1656. Hew Neish, parish of Comrie ; testament made (51).

1663. Elizabeth Neish, in Struthill, parish of Muthill ; testament dated 16th April.

1664. Janet Neish, in Aberlednock, parish of Monievairst ; testament dated 3rd November.

1667. Katherine Neish, relict of Malcolm Henderson, in Beddenheth, (Badenheath) ; testament dated 15th August (51).

1670. Alexander Neish, chapman, was buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, 27th December.

1676. John M'Neish, servitor to the Laird of Comrie ; his testament is dated 20th April (51).

He was probably one of the Neishes of Ross, near Comrie.

1688. The testament of James Neish, in Strathgath (Stragieth), was dated 23rd August (51).

1691. Three children of Daniel Neish, tailor, were buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on the following dates : 28th July 1691, 10th June 1696, and 25th September 1697.

1692. David Neish, merchant, was buried in Greyfriars on the 28th July 1692, and his widow, Isabella Mures, was also buried there, on 11th September 1694.

1697. Donald and Janet Nish, twin lawful children to Duncan Nish and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror (now Blairinroar, a rendering of Blar an Ruathair), were born on the 13th, and baptised on the 14th December 1697.

Patrick Neish, lawful son to Duncan Neish and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror, was born on the 10th, and baptised on the 17th March 1699 (54).

1715. James Neish, in Tarbrex, Stirlingshire, served in the Jacobite Army in 1715.

“Item, to John Robertstone and John Cunninghame for bringing in James Neish, in Tarbrex, to the Tolbooth be the justices

of the peace order, who had been with the Highland armie, 12s. Dated 29th August 1715 (55).

1735. Patrick Neish, in Mewie, son of Patrick Neish, in Easter Dundurn, parish of Comrie, testament dated 6th February (51).

1753. Duncan, in Easter Dundurn, eldest son of the deceased Patrick Neish, there, his testament is dated 19th July (51).

1762. Duncan Neish, in Edinburgh, married Barbara Anderson, 13th September 1762.

1768. Margaret Neish, relict of — Neish, residenter in Edinburgh, died 20th October 1768 (41).

1746. John Neish was one of the Prince's (Charles Stewart) grooms ('The Lyon in Mourning,' vol. II., p. 235).

1854. John Neish, in Ross, near Comrie, was served heir to his father, Duncan Neish, there. Heir General, dated 9th May 1854 (53).

1865. James Neish was appointed Postmaster of St Fillans, in the old Neish clan district, in 1865; he conducted the business for many years in the house now known as Ingleside; he retired in 1889 (19).

WILLIAM NEISH OF AUCHTERARDER,

A native of the "lang toun" of Auchterarder, was born on the 16th July 1867. He wrote at least two songs worth recording. They are extracted from 'The Harp of Perthshire,' by Robert Ford, 1893.

THE BRAES ROUN' ABOUT AUCHTERAIRDER.

At times when I think on my boyhood's bricht oors,
Its joys and its sorrows, its sunshine and shooers;
I'm a laddie again, and I'm puin' the flooers
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm list'nin' again to the hum o' the bee
As it scans ilka flooer on the wet dewy lea;
Or list'nin' the laverock that sings blyth and free
'Bune the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm paidlin' ance mair in the cool o' the burn,
And chasin' the big troots at maist ilka turn;
Or landin' them oot wi' my new horse-hair gurn,
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

84 *History of the Clan Neish or MacNish.*

I'm lyin' again on the green whinny knowes,
And watching the sheep as they lazily browse ;
Or I'm puin' the heather whaur wildly it grows,
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

In fancy I'm hearin' the heart-stirrin' note
O' the siller-voiced cuckoo frae yon woody grot,
As loudly it pipes frae its clear trebly throat
O'er the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm staunin' again whaur the grass grows knee-deep,
Whaur the saft gloamin' shadows their lanely watch keep,
And I bend o'er a mither that sleeps her last sleep
In the kirkyaird o' auld Auchterairder.

Oh scenes o' my childhood, you're dear, dear to me,
My heart's like to break, and the tear blin's my e'e,
When I think that I'll maybe again never see
The braes roun' about Auchterairder.

But when my lamp's oot—when my sun's shone its best,
And draps ower the hills in the far distant West ;
I'd like just to think I could lie down and rest
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

WILLIAM NEISH.

THE BURNIE'S SANG.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie
At the breakin' o' the morn,
When the fragrant breath o' simmer
Moves the blossoms on the thorn,
When the birdies still are sleepin'
And the zephyr scents the hay,
O hoo sweetly sings the burnie
At the breakin' o' the day.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie
When the simmer sun is high,
And naething but a fleecy cloud
Floats through the azure sky,
When the birds are whistlin' blythely,
And the lambkins frisk and play,
O hoo sweetly sings the burnie
On a sunny simmer day.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie
When the nicht-clouds settle doon,
And the glamour o' the gloamin'
Flings its mystic shadows roon',
When the birdies all are nested,
And the sun draps ower the moor,
Oh the burnie sings the sweetest
At the gloamin's witchin' oor.

Oh the music o' the burnie,
Heard far back in childhood's days,
Mak's me aftentimes grow weary
O' the city's buzz and blaze,
Yet at times ower rigid manhood
Childhood sheds its sunny beams,
For I hear the burnie singin'
In the midst o' happy dreams.

WILLIAM NEISH.